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## Plan to destroy CIA files halted

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new Senate intelligence committee has unanimously recommended a six-month moratorium on CIA plans to destroy files of improper and illegal activities.

The decision was reached by the panel in a closed-door session on Wednesday and publicly disclosed Thursday by chairman Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii in a letter to Senate leaders.

"It is the further recommendation of the committee that the CIA and other intelligence agencies should submit an inventory of the records to be destroyed" to the panel, Inouye said in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and Minority Leader Hugh Scott.

Mansfield and Scott earlier in the week had left it to the new panel to decide whether the CIA should be allowed to de-

stroy its files on its past misdeeds.

The controversy was prompted when CIA Director George Bush wrote to Mansfield and Scott to tell them he planned to destroy the files now that congressional investigations into allegations of improper conduct had been completed.

These same Senate leaders had been the ones who had asked the CIA to save the files while Congress was investigating the alleged misdeeds.

The Bush statement generated sharp criticism from Rep. Bella Abzug, D-N.Y., who chairs the House government information subcommittee, and from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., chairman of the Senate administrative practice and procedure subcommittee.

Kennedy had called it inconceivable

that the CIA lacks the storage capacity to store the files, which were used by the special Senate intelligence committee which recently completed its investigation and was disbanded.

The new, permanent oversight committee, in one of its first official acts, "is unanimously of the opinion that there should be a moratorium on the destruction of these records for approximately six months and that notice should be given of the moratorium ... so that those who may wish to take legal or other action may do so," Inouye said.

He also said the panel had recommended that its staff be allowed to review all "documents intended to be destroyed."